

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209489

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO PHNOM PENH, SAIGON
FROM PARIS OCT 16.

QUOTE PARIS 27005.

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB, FR,

SUBJ: FRENCH VIEWS OF PRC SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK

REF: A) PARIS 24933; B) PARIS 24959; C) PEKING 1129;

D) PARIS 25540

1. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ASIAN PROBLEMS ON OCTOBER 15, QUAI
DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS FROMENT-MEURICE (F-M) DISCUSSED
BREIFLY -- AND SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY -- CONVERSATIONS WITH PRC
ABOUT CAMBODIA. (F-M HAD ACCOMPANIED POMPIDOU TO PEKING AND
WAS ONE OF PRINCIPAL FIGURES ENCOURAGING ACTIVE FRENCH ROLE IN
ENGAGING PRC COOPERATION IN SEEKING SOLUTION OF KHMER PROBLEM.)
F-M SAID THAT FRENCH EFFORTS TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE
NEGOTIATED SOLUTION IN CAMBODIA HAD BEEN REBUFFED. PRC HAD
REITERATED DURING POMPIDOU TRIP COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK
WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT OR AGAINST WHOM.

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PRC (PARTICULARLY CHOU EN-LAI) HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE

PRC HAD NO GREAT ADMIRATION FOR SIHANOUK AS PERSON.
WHEN QUERIED ABOUT SIHANOUK'S ALL ALLEGED MESSAGE TO POMPIDOU
IN HANGCHOW ASKING FOR FRENCH RECOGNITIONN, F-M SAID THAT
HE KNEW NOTHING OF SUCH A MESSAGE; HE HAD FIRST READ ABOUT IT
RECENTLY IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

2. F-M'S REPORT REPEATS THEMES CONTAINED IN OTHER REPORTS OF
POMPIDOU TRIP, BUT THERE ARE SUFFICEINT VARIATIONS AMONG THE
ACCOUNTS TO SUGGEST THAT FRENCH ARE NOT GIVING US THE FULL STORY
OF PEKING CONVERSATIONS CONCERNING CAMBODIA. SIGNIFICANTLY,
NON ONE HAS INDICATED WHETHER OR NOT ANYONE FROM POMPIDOU'S
PARRTY SAW SIHANOUK OR PENN NOUTH. FRENCH RETICENCE
COULD INDICATE THEY HAVE GOTTEN LESS SATISFACTION FROM PRC THAN
THEY THOUGHT OR THAT THEY STILL HAVE HOPES OF WORKING OUT SOME
SOLUTION THROUGH THEIR "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH SIHANOUK AND
ARE NOT YET READY TO REVEAL ITS FORM. WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK
IT IS FORMER.
IRWIN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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